

Press Release

Council of Europe Press Division

Ref: 679a06

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 25 60

Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 39 11

pressunit@coe.int

internet: www.coe.int/press



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San Marino takes over the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Chairmanship from Russia

Strasbourg, 10.11.2006 - The Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers will be transferred from the Russian Federation to San Marino at a special meeting of the Ministers' Deputies of the 46 member states on Wednesday 15 November at 10.15 am.

The first part of the meeting will be chaired by Alexander Grushko, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, who will give an overview of Russia's six-month Chairmanship. Fiorenzo Stolfi, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of San Marino, will then take over the chairmanship and present its country's priorities for the next six months.

Before the meeting, at 9.30 am, Mr Grushko will inaugurate, in the Entrance Hall of the Palais de l'Europe, an exhibition of the best projects of Architectural Décor for the Square of Europe in St. Petersburg, with Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in the presence of several representatives of Saint Petersburg's Government.

The meeting will be held *in camera*. **Photographers and cameramen will be allowed to take shots for 5 minutes at the opening of the meeting (10.15 am) and at the handing over ceremony around noon.**

For further information, please see our special file: <http://www.coe.int/CM-Chairmanship>.

Press contact : Henriette Girard, Press Division

Tel. + 33 3 88 41 21 41 ; Mobile +33 6 75 65 03 39 ; henriette.girard@coe.int

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 46 member states.